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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/69/91-E/2014/84, A/69/279 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)

1. **Mr. Seth** (Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on agriculture development, food security and nutrition (A/69/279), said that the first section of the report examined progress in eradicating hunger and malnutrition and providing access to food. Statistics provided in the report indicated that if appropriate efforts were stepped up immediately, the hunger target of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — to reduce by half the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries by 2015 — was in reach.

2. Despite overall progress, large disparities remained among developing regions. Eastern and South-Eastern Asia had already achieved the MDG hunger target, as had Latin America and the Caribbean. The Caucasus and Central Asia were on track to reach the target by 2015. However, sub-Saharan Africa and Southern and Western Asia had registered insufficient progress. More than one quarter of the world's undernourished people lived in sub-Saharan Africa, where there had been an increase of 38 million hungry people since 1990-1992.

3. The report recalled that in focusing exclusively on kilocalories and underweight, the target did not capture the various dimensions of undernutrition, particularly stunting, wasting and micronutrient deficiencies. Global initiatives to increase cooperation in eradicating hunger and malnutrition and provide access to food, such as the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge, played an important role.

4. One way to sustainably increase agricultural productivity in order to avert future food crises was to increase support to smallholder farmers. The report highlighted the International Year of Family Farming, launched in November 2013, which had included regional discussions incorporating the policy recommendations of smallholder farmers. In addition, a new programme, proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme, aimed to promote sustainable food systems. The report also provided an update on progress in addressing the role of international food markets in food security.

5. **Mr. Mollinedo Claros** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed concern at developing countries' vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change and food security threats. Despite the progress achieved, a total of 805 million people were chronically undernourished. In developing countries, the prevalence rate of undernourishment remained at 13.5 per cent.

6. The urgent need for a people-centred approach to agricultural development, food insecurity and nutrition had been further accentuated by current challenges. Increasing agricultural production to meet the nutritional needs of a growing world population sustainably was central to ensuring poverty eradication.

7. Hunger was a violation of human dignity. Everyone had the right to access to safe and nutritious food, in order to develop and maintain their full physical and mental capacities. Achieving food security would require strengthening the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment of indigenous peoples, rural communities, small-scale farmers and fishermen; the provision of technical and financial assistance; access to and transfer of technology; and capacity-building. Small-scale and family farmers played a positive role in conservation and sustainable seed use. People's nutrition should be safeguarded and enhanced through the promotion of productive, cultural and environmental practices. The Group of 77 and China demanded sustained funding and an increase in targeted investments to enhance world food production and called for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security.

8. The Group of 77 and China further emphasized the need to strengthen the agricultural sector as part of the efforts to accelerate achievement of the MDGs by 2015, in particular the hunger target. Continued deliberations on agriculture development, food security and nutrition were important in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Subsidies and other market distortions driven by developed countries had seriously affected the agricultural sector of developing countries, limiting the ability of the sector to contribute

significantly to poverty eradication; sustained, inclusive economic growth; and equitable, sustainable development, food security and rural development. All forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures by developed countries that were not in compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules should be eliminated immediately. Developed countries should show flexibility and the political will to address the fundamental concerns of developing countries in the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Elimination of such subsidies was a fundamental part of the global effort to promote agriculture and rural development and eradicate poverty and hunger. Finally, public financing and transfer of technology by developed countries were needed, not only for the adoption of sustainable agriculture, but also for the establishment of the required infrastructure, communications and other enabling conditions.

9. **Mr. Talbot** (Guyana), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that activities in the areas of agriculture development, food security and nutrition were critical to create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, especially for women and young people, to sustain livelihoods and to reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases. Such activities were therefore of strategic importance to the continued stability, security and sustainable development of the Caribbean region. Despite tireless efforts, the region's high exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters, the need to adapt to climate change, and difficulties in exploiting economies of scale owing to small population size presented persistent challenges. In the framework of its common agricultural policy, CARICOM had therefore worked to address the region's most critical constraints to enhancing production and productivity by modernizing and reorienting the role and function of agriculture in society.

10. A thirteenth annual week of events related to agriculture in the region had recently concluded in Suriname. It had focused on the relevance and urgency of family farming to efforts to address the specific constraints on agriculture in the region. CARICOM had a food and nutrition security policy that recognized the multidimensional and multisectoral nature of food and nutrition security and the need for simultaneous, holistic and concerted action on a broad front, encompassing, inter alia, production, food processing and distribution, health and nutrition, trade, infrastructure, social welfare, education and the information and communication sectors.

11. Given the constraints that CARICOM faced with respect to agriculture development, food security and nutrition, greater support for regional initiatives was needed to rapidly bring about benefits for primary producers, such as those involved in farming and fishing in small island developing States. The region looked forward to increased collaboration with the (FAO to ensure that food production, processing and marketing, food safety and public health systems were capable of providing safe, nutritious and affordable food for consumers at all times. In that regard, the States members of CARICOM anticipated the early implementation of all relevant initiatives contained in the Samoa Pathway and noted in particular the call for a meeting on food and nutrition security in small island developing States in order to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges.

12. The member States of CARICOM welcomed the consideration given to agriculture development, food security and nutrition in various forums. The report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals specifically included several pertinent goals and targets, notably goal 2 on hunger and goal 15 on the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

13. **Mr. Phansourivong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that although the agriculture sector had been an engine for strong economic growth and development in ASEAN countries and was a vital source of global food security, the region continued to face challenges related to malnutrition and hunger, owing to natural resource scarcity, shocks from food price volatility and the effects of climate change.

14. In order to improve agricultural productivity, food and nutrition insecurity must be addressed sustainably by augmenting investment and improving technology in the agricultural sector. Investment in infrastructure, such as roads, irrigation, communication systems and agriculture-related services, especially for smallholder farmers, was vital to enhancing agricultural productivity. It was also important to increase agricultural production and productivity in

order to meet the nutritional needs of a growing world population, particularly in developing countries.

15. Production shortfalls, price volatility and trade distortions remained threats to global food security. Providing and strengthening global market access for agricultural and other products from developing countries could help to stabilize food prices. In that regard, it was important to successfully conclude the Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which should ensure a fair agricultural market and a mechanism to correct market distortions, including domestic support and export subsidies. The elimination of such subsidies was fundamental to the global effort to promote agriculture development and poverty eradication.

16. ASEAN had established the ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and its attendant Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security in the ASEAN Region and the ASEAN-Plus-Three Emergency Rice Reserve to help States members of ASEAN when the need arose. The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry had recently approved the revised ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework and the new Strategic Plan of Action on Food Security for 2015 to 2020, which incorporated a new component on nutrition. ASEAN welcomed the recent adoption of a General Assembly resolution on the International Year of Soils and World Soil Day.

17. **Mr. Tupouniua** (Tonga), speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that the importance of agriculture development, food security and nutrition could not be overemphasized. Malnutrition, the pervasiveness of non-communicable diseases resulting from limited access to nutritious food, and overconsumption of non-nutritious food required attention, as did the right to adequate food and nutrition for all. Food wastage through the food supply chain must be drastically reduced.

18. Due to the small land mass of many Pacific countries and their extreme vulnerability to natural disasters and external shocks, agriculture barely existed in some of the islands, and there was heavy reliance on food importation. Such imported food was not always very nutritious, leading to non-communicable diseases and high costs for national health care resources. The marine environment played an important role in food security and nutrition for the Pacific small island developing States, and revenues generated from it represented a significant portion of national budgets.

19. There could be no food security for any of the small island developing States without sustainable fisheries, which were as important as sustainable agriculture to their food security, nutrition and survival. Oceans were also a critical source of work, food, livelihood and culture. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), States Members of the United Nations had stressed the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture for food security, nutrition and livelihoods. That focus underlay the work of the Pacific small island developing States in championing a stand-alone goal on oceans and seas.

20. The Pacific small island developing States noted with particular interest those parts of the Secretary-General's report (A/69/279) that highlighted the significant challenges that climate change would bring for food security. Indeed, climate change was the gravest threat to the sustainable livelihoods, well-being, viability, security and sovereignty of small island developing States. Without progress on addressing climate change impacts and challenges there could be no sustainable development.

21. National Government ownership and leadership complemented by public-private partnership were key to any sustainable effort to enhance food production, improve access to food, scale up social protection systems and implement community-based adaptation programmes that built resilience against climate hazards and improved disaster preparedness and response.

22. The Pacific small island developing States supported climate-smart agriculture for food security, nutrition and resilience-building. Agriculture science education should receive appropriate support, especially in developing countries. Climate change adaptation strategies relevant to food security and nutrition should be mainstreamed into all aquaculture and fisheries policies and actions and should be linked to climate and weather research. Development partners should continue to work together with small island developing States, guided by the terms of the latter, during the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the post-2015 development framework.

23. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that one person in eight suffered from hunger, and 33 countries were in urgent need of assistance owing to exorbitant food prices. Food insecurity challenges included high prices and harvest losses owing to climate change factors and desertification, issues which were of great concern to the Arab Group.

24. Reaffirming the right of each individual to adequate, nutritionally balanced food, he stressed the need to strengthen food security for current and future generations, especially in developing countries. Food security must be embedded in the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. The Arab Group welcomed global, coordinated efforts to tackle food insecurity and transfer agricultural technology and urged States to facilitate market access for farmers in developing countries.

25. All the Arab countries had arid lands, owing to drought and desertification. The Arab countries consumed more than 40 per cent of the world's cereal and were experiencing serious water shortages. They were therefore very motivated to tackle the issue.

26. The subsidy-related issues facing small farmers in developing countries should be reviewed. The international community must increase investment in agriculture to help developing countries, especially those that were net food importers.

27. **Mr. Beviglia Zampetti** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union remained committed to the global effort to tackle hunger and malnutrition and to translate its commitment into action, including by supporting the Zero Hunger Challenge.

28. European Union policies strongly promoted the multiplier role of the agricultural sector and the contributions that all actors could make, as reflected in the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition and continued support for the Global Alliance for Resilience Initiative (AGIR) and Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience (SHARE).

29. Local, regional and international markets for agricultural products, including cash crops, provided a vital source of income for rural populations. The development of food value chains could help millions to share in economic growth. In the recently adopted Malabo Declaration of the African Union, States members had recommitted to agricultural development and resolved to triple intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by 2025. Increased public and private investments in agriculture and food systems were needed, as was enhanced access to sustainable financial services for agricultural finance, including agricultural insurance.

30. Excessive price volatility could have devastating effects, especially for the poor and vulnerable. The European Union thus continued to support market transparency and stability, particularly through the Agricultural Market Information System and the Platform for Agriculture Risk Management. It also promoted sustainable agriculture and sustainable food systems, by helping developing countries to boost and diversify their agricultural production and productivity, including through sustainable natural resource management practices and investment in research. Agricultural development and land management that were environmentally, socially and economically sustainable and climate-resilient had important mitigation potential. Enhancing water efficiency in agriculture and protecting water resources were priorities, as was addressing food loss and waste.

31. The European Union also continued to invest in adequate and balanced nutrition, in particular for pregnant women and young children. Wasting and stunting must be tackled during humanitarian crises as well as through longer-term programmes, with nutrition objectives incorporated in such areas as food security, agriculture, health, water, sanitation and education. The European Union remained committed to support countries in reducing by 2025 the number of children under five who were stunted by at least 7 million.

32. Equal access to and control over land were crucial, including women's equal right to inheritance. All countries should apply the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. States Members of the United Nations were also encouraged to put into practice the Principles of Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

33. **Mr. Gonçalves** (Brazil) said that while the number of people suffering from chronic hunger was down and the relevant MDG target would be nearly achieved by 2015, close to 840 million people worldwide were still undernourished, of whom 99 million were children under the age of 5, and 33 countries still relied on assistance for food. At the same time, modern lifestyles and access to low-cost, non-nutritious food had caused obesity and related diseases to skyrocket in developed and developing countries alike.

34. The new, ambitious targets for ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture by 2030 presented significant challenges. Foremost among them was that of producing enough food to feed the world. Given a projected population of 9 billion by 2050, considerable productivity gains would be needed. Meeting the targets would involve achieving a development-oriented outcome to the Doha Round that would allow developing countries increased access to world agricultural markets.

35. Significant investment in research, rural infrastructure and agricultural extension was needed to increase productivity. New plant varieties must be developed to resist the effects of climate change, and the issue of genetically modified organisms must be adequately addressed. The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, a government body, had achieved success in developing plant and animal varieties that could adapt to the various climates that existed in Brazil, enabling Brazil to improve its agricultural production significantly, with negligible increases in planted area. Such work could be replicated in other countries. The Research Corporation had a long history of providing South-South cooperation, especially in Africa, to promote increased yields and improve food security.

36. Small farmers had a crucial role to play. In Brazil, public school meals were sourced from local producers, generating demand for local produce and economic activity in remote areas and promoting improved nutrition and food security for schoolchildren. Other programmes that focused on family farming involved access to income transfers, technical and rural extension support, crop insurance and access to credit and price guarantee instruments. A national land reform programme offered parcels of government-owned or unproductive lands to those without access to land.

37. As a direct result of increased spending on food security and social programmes, the percentage of Brazilians living in extreme poverty had dropped from 14 per cent to 3.5 per cent between 2001 and 2002, removing Brazil from the FAO World Hunger Map. Given that there were some 500 million agricultural family plots in the world, investing in smallholders could have very powerful effects.

38. **Ms. Lilianne** (Israel) said that while the Millennium Goal of reducing by more than half the number of people living in poverty had been achieved, the number of people who were undernourished had declined by only 7.3 per cent during the same period. Worldwide, 842 million people continued to suffer from chronic hunger. A new approach to hunger eradication was needed. The original MDG target did not go far enough in addressing core issues. Low productivity and inability to cope with crop failures and climate change still prevailed.

39. It was particularly important to improve the productivity levels, adaptability and resilience of smallholder farmers, who were responsible for at least 56 per cent of all global agricultural production and 80 per cent of all agricultural production in Africa. Smallholder farmers would be the main source of the 60 per cent increase in food production needed to feed the world population in 2050.

40. However, most smallholder farmers, especially those in developing countries, had difficulty increasing their agricultural output beyond subsistence level, largely because they lacked credit, technical support and land tenure. They relied instead on traditional labour-intensive, low-productivity agricultural methods and also had to pay to cultivate their land. Most smallholder farmers did not have the knowledge and techniques that would maximize their yields and incomes.

41. Most smallholder agriculture enterprises were also run by women, who had particular difficulty in moving beyond subsistence farming. Although they provided most agricultural labour, their contributions remained for the most part invisible. Crop sales were overwhelmingly handled by men, hindering women's access to income, credit, land tenure and leadership positions. It was therefore necessary to do more than merely increase smallholder productivity. The voluntary guidelines endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security in 2012 offered valuable guidance

on how to advance women's participation in every area of agricultural production, not just sowing and harvesting.

42. To avert future food crises, agricultural productivity must be increased sustainably, and in ways that were resilient. Unsustainable methods for increasing food production had already led to degradation of land and water sources and the deterioration of related ecosystems essential to maintaining a healthy climate. Smallholder farmers must be empowered to engage in sustainable natural resource management, particularly given the perils of shifts in global demography and economic instability. That would benefit women and other disadvantaged groups and spur progress in hunger eradication and food security.

43. Israel had vast experience in sustainably maximizing agricultural productivity. Over the previous 25 years, agricultural output in Israel had increased by a factor of seven with only a slight increase in water consumption, despite the dry climate. In fact, Israel currently grew more than 40 per cent of its vegetables and field crops in the desert. A dynamic entrepreneurial spirit had allowed Israelis to become active agents of progress rather than passive victims of chance. Israel thus encouraged smallholder farmers to become agricultural entrepreneurs. If they prospered, they would be able to invest in qualitative expansion of their enterprises, providing the global community with greater certainty of supply and improved produce quality.

44. The Israeli agency for international development cooperation, known by its Hebrew acronym, MASHAV, was active in development efforts in Africa, transferring knowledge, technology and approaches to many partners throughout the continent. Projects involving improved seedlings, techniques to raise yields, irrigation technologies, practices to preserve natural resources, and post-harvest technology were carried out in partnership with developing and developed countries, the United Nations system, and civil society. MASHAV would host a regional agribusiness workshop in December 2014 to empower rural women, in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The workshop would expose participants to the various aspects of planning, development and management of small agricultural businesses, with a focus on adaptability of methods and technologies to meet local conditions in each participant's country.

45. **Ms. Auearerrchit** (Thailand) said that while progress on achieving the MDG target of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 should be accelerated, the international community must renew efforts to address the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition by ensuring that food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture remained high on the post-2015 agenda. In that regard, her delegation was pleased that the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained a goal to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".

46. Thailand had launched a strategic framework for food management for the period 2012-2016 consisting of four strategies, namely food security, food quality and safety, food education and systems management. It employed an agricultural zoning policy for large-scale farmers, providing recommendations and scientific information on soil, crop types, livestock and fishery that were appropriate for specific areas, in order to strengthen farmers' capacities to produce safe agricultural foods and products of premium quality. Thailand also applied the philosophy of sufficiency economy for smallholder farmers, involving an emphasis on proper land and water management for optimum benefits, thus allowing both large and small farmers to reduce expenditures and chemical use, and eventually leading to food security in rural areas.

47. Although Thailand had already halved the proportion of people living in hunger, the country faced the double burden of malnutrition, with both undernutrition and overnutrition found among the children of Thailand. There was therefore a strong emphasis on educating the public about proper dietary requirements and nutrition.

48. Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhor, who was the World Food Programme (WFP) Special Ambassador for School Feeding, had established a school lunch programme in remote areas to help underfunded schools provide nutritious food through agricultural projects, such as growing vegetables and raising fish, poultry and other types of animals on school grounds. Recently a project had been launched to improve students' dietary habits, school sanitation and health management.

49. Healthy and fertile soil was essential to agricultural productivity, food security and sustainable agriculture. Her delegation therefore welcomed the decision to declare 2015 the International Year of Soils and 5 December World Soil Day.

50. Thailand called for the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures that were not in compliance with WTO rules and the Bali Package. Distorting trade measures could seriously harm the agricultural sector of developing countries, limiting the sector's ability to contribute significantly to the eradication of poverty and to sustained inclusive economic growth, food security and sustainable development.

51. At the regional level, Thailand supported the ASEAN-Plus-Three Emergency Rice Reserve, the first functioning regional rice reserve mechanism in the world, which ensured food security during emergencies and crises, and the ASEAN Food Security Information System, which served to inform policy decisions on food security in the region. At the international level, Thailand, which hosted the FAO and WFP regional offices for the Asia-Pacific region and was a member of the FAO Council, collaborated closely with both organizations and wished to enhance partnership with other relevant bodies to ensure and promote food security.

52. **Mr. Mawe** (Ireland) said that food insecurity and malnutrition manifested themselves in various ways throughout the world and had many complex and interdependent underlying causes. Drought, conflict and high food prices would continue to have an impact on food security and access to adequate and nutritious food. Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition required a twin-track approach, with interventions and strong policies from the local to the global levels. Short-term relief must be situated within a longer-term strategy to reduce vulnerability to hunger and food insecurity.

53. In 2013, Ireland had directed 20 per cent of its national aid budget to hunger-related activities, demonstrating its deep commitment to the fight against hunger and undernutrition. All of Ireland's activities related to hunger emphasized nutritional quality.

54. Ireland worked to boost the agricultural productivity of poor smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly women. Its work also targeted undernutrition in infants, children and mothers and promoted governance and leadership to reduce hunger worldwide. Smallholder farmers, especially women, must be at the centre of any sustainable solution to world hunger. Support to smallholder farmers would be most effective as part of a value chain approach. There should be support for pro-poor agricultural research, which in turn should be accessible to poor smallholder farmers, especially women.

55. Access to credit and farm inputs must be improved, to enable smallholder farmers to benefit from new technologies and practices, and there should be support for climate-smart agricultural practices. Links between smallholder farmers and the private sector should be encouraged, so that they would have access to inputs and links to viable markets to trade surplus produce.

56. Aid partners should be wary of focusing exclusively on increasing agricultural productivity and on simple food security measures. Increases in agricultural productivity frequently failed to translate into improved nutritional outcomes at the household level. The goal must remain the improved health and nutrition of the very poorest. Comprehensive initiatives such as Scaling Up Nutrition, which Ireland actively supported, had real potential to reduce undernutrition. The increased political commitment to tackling undernutrition across 54 high-burden countries was a significant achievement. Ireland encouraged all stakeholders in the relevant sectors to champion the integration of nutrition into all of their food security activities in order to attain nutrition security for all.

57. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka) said that one person in eight remained chronically undernourished, and that lack of proper nutrition was the underlying cause of approximately 45 per cent of all deaths among children under five years of age worldwide. Some countries needed external assistance for food owing to internal conflict, crop failures, climactic conditions and high domestic food prices, or a combination thereof.

58. Sri Lankans had been among the first people in the world to manage water resources comprehensively by building complex reservoirs and canals to store and conduct water for irrigation and human consumption. Giant reservoirs in the dry zone of the country were still the lifeblood of its agriculture and supported a self-sufficient food production system.

59. In Sri Lanka, 29.7 per cent of the labour force was still employed in agriculture. Government

fertilizer subsidies had substantially contributed to increased outputs. A pension scheme, crop insurance mechanisms and compensation for crop destruction had ensured security for farmers.

60. With the advent of peace in 2009, new opportunities had been provided to the fishing industry in the northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka, and the fisheries industry had continued to boom. The Global Food Security Index for 2013 placed Sri Lanka in sixtieth place among 107 countries. In March 2014, Sri Lanka had delivered the first part of a donation of 50,000 metric tons of rice to WFP, furthering its commitment to support international hunger eradication efforts.

61. In 1986, his Government had developed a national nutrition policy. A programme developed in 1973 provided a food supplement containing proteins and all other required micronutrients to pregnant and lactating women, infants and children from 12 to 59 months. Another programme aimed to provide a glass of milk and a school meal to children from low-income families. Dairy products for infants were completely tax-exempt, in order to ensure that infants received the required nutrition. Growth promotion and monitoring programmes conducted by the Ministry of Health had been instrumental in improving nutritional status and addressing child malnutrition. A community-based intervention aimed to make Sri Lanka free of poverty by 2016 by improving the economic levels of 700,000 families and ensuring food security through home gardening and consumption of homegrown vegetables, milk and eggs.

62. **Mr. Rimouche** (Algeria) said that food security was inseparable from the issues of human rights, dignity and humanity. The number of people suffering from hunger and chronic malnutrition was shockingly high. While many countries were still in need of food assistance, countries must learn to become self-sufficient in matters of food security.

63. Agricultural development did much to reduce hunger and malnutrition and had created jobs, particularly in poor countries. Hunger reduction and food security depended on the extent to which agriculture development could become the main instrument of a dynamic, balanced revitalization of rural areas. Water was central to all agricultural production, and water shortages were a major source of insecurity for hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Conditions must be created through public and private investment to support rural populations, especially young people. Infrastructure modernization and projects to improve natural resources were necessary and could provide livelihoods.

64. Efforts to reduce food insecurity had achieved uneven progress. According to FAO data, the number of people in Africa suffering from hunger had increased to 239 million between 1990 and 2012. Very few African countries had sufficient resources to respond to the situation while also meeting their long-term development needs, and many were heavily dependent on official development assistance (ODA).

65. Agricultural growth must be sustainable and preserve biodiversity and conserve water, land and fish stocks. Prevention of recurrent food crises required international food security governance.

66. In Algeria, self-sufficiency in food security was a public policy goal and was considered a national sovereignty issue. The Government had raised nearly US$13.7 billion for an agricultural renewal and food security policy for the period 2009-2014 to encourage private investment in order to strengthen food security and make sustainable improvements for the rural population. Government-supported food security measures included updating production infrastructure, boosting production of food staples, diversifying agricultural production, improving living conditions and income for people in rural areas, adopting technological advancements by farmers, promoting stable agricultural markets and strengthening human capacities and technical assistance. Algeria also contributed to other countries' food security through FAO-led initiatives.

67. **Mr. Al Jassar** (Kuwait) said that Kuwait continued to support developing and least developed countries to help them achieve food security. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, established in 1961, had received $18 billion in contributions and supported 931 projects benefiting more than 100 States. The Fund had spent more than $2 billion on projects to support agricultural development, fight hunger and support the MDGs and the sustainable development goals. In 2013, Kuwait had hosted the Third Africa-Arab Summit, at which food insecurity had been a priority.

68. The negative impacts of climate change hampered developing countries working to achieve

sustainable agricultural development and also threatened the existence of small island developing States. Qatar had recently enacted a law on environmental protection, including protection of the atmosphere and the marine environment. The international community must scale up efforts to mitigate climate change impacts.

69. **Mr. Chandra** (Indonesia) expressed concern with regard to the prognosis of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research that, owing to complex and persistent structural problems, the strongest hunger reduction measures would still leave 600 million people suffering from chronic hunger in the developing world. New, revolutionary methods were required to achieve food security and end hunger, including new partnerships across sectors, strengthening of the relevant food and nutrition research, and transfer of new technologies, including improvements to agricultural and nutrition infrastructure. Lack of political commitment was holding back progress.

70. Given the increasingly limited amount of arable land and the conversion of agricultural lands for other purposes, the new Government of Indonesia was emphasizing the need to mainstream marine, fishery and other ocean-related issues to achieve sustainable food security for all, while trying to improve the living conditions of smallholder fisher-folk in the archipelago.

71. International cooperation would be required to resolve structural challenges in the development of agriculture and fisheries products, along with protection of biodiversity and strategic food sources to enhance food market opportunities, added value and utilities. Appropriate and affordable technologies to increase agricultural production and capacity were needed to increase exports of agricultural goods, particularly those produced by smallholder farmers. It was also important to establish stable, secure and safe markets to enable a sustainable and resilient food system and minimize the impact of excessive price volatility. The relevant sectors required effective investment and innovation. In that context, Indonesia also attached great importance to appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

72. Indonesia was doing its utmost to reduce stunting and malnutrition, both still significant problems in the country. A joint intergovernmental task force had been established to overcome the challenges through multisectoral programmes. Indonesia looked forward to the second International Conference on Nutrition, which would be hosted jointly by FAO and the World Health Organization in Rome in November.

73. **Ms. El Midaoui** (Morocco) said that statistical data showed that the number of people living in extreme poverty would not be halved by the end of 2015. There were food crises in West Africa, and the Horn of Africa and the Sahel suffered from recurring drought, which had led to some of the worse food crises in recent history.

74. Morocco, a net importer of food, had reformed its agricultural policy, restructuring the sector and redefining its missions and targets. A plan put in place in 2002 had led to significant progress in the production of food staples, which in turn had reduced food imports. Given the importance of family farming, in which more than 40 per cent of the workforce was employed, the new policy aimed to improve agricultural productivity and make it a sector with high added value, which would improve the living conditions of smallholders. The policy focused on rural women, with projects involving olive groves, argan trees and saffron. Support and training was being provided to rural women, with the assistance of women's cooperatives. In 2012, Morocco had hosted an international conference on rural women at which agreements concerning the advancement and empowerment of rural women had been signed with various ministries, the Multi-country Office of UN-Women in Rabat and the Office of FAO in Morocco.

75. Morocco had a nutrition policy for the current decade designed to mainstream nutrition in national policy and to coordinate nutrition-related measures to improve public health. The country's efforts to eradicate poverty, empower smallholder farmers, strengthen the capacity of the public to adapt to climate change and reduce loss and waste of foodstuff had been recognized by FAO.

76. South-South and triangular cooperation were foreign policy priorities for Morocco, particularly in Africa and the Arab world. It had strengthened cooperation on food security with other developing countries and had shared its know-how and experience, as indicated by the projects it had initiated in various countries on modern irrigation techniques, soil and

water management, artificial rain and combating locusts.

77. Following the establishment of a strategic food security partnership with FAO, Morocco had signed several tripartite agreements with FAO and third countries in Africa. In September 2014, Morocco had hosted the ninth regular session of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean. During that conference, Morocco had reiterated its commitment to share its experience on fisheries management and suggested developing regional cooperation programmes on sustainable fisheries management. In 2013, Morocco had organized a regional awareness-raising workshop in cooperation with FAO on Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Morocco had exerted tremendous efforts to develop small-scale fishing, stressing the human element, to improve working conditions and income for marine fisher-folk.

78. **Mr. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that millions of people suffered from food insecurity, a critical situation that was made worse when natural disasters struck. International efforts to tackle malnutrition and poverty and address the challenges of unstable markets and environmental and climate change pressures were crucial. Boosting agricultural output by sustainably helping small farmers would help to eliminate hunger and protect the right of each individual to sufficient food. It was also necessary to address the problem of waste.

79. Empowering women, local communities and smallholder farmers to help them gain access to technology, build capacity and share experience were ways of addressing food-related challenges. The Doha Round should be concluded in order to open access to new markets for developing countries. Global financial and economic reforms were needed to put an end to the problems of developing countries in the agricultural sector, among others. Agricultural practices must be sustainable and sound in order to protect lives.

80. The Constitution of Qatar attached particular importance to climate change and food security. The Government had consistently reaffirmed the importance of agriculture and food security and their links to water, health, poverty, climate and energy, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development framework. Agriculture was central to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Developing countries needed help implementing policies on land degradation and desertification. Qatar had created a global partnership to combat desertification and protect the environment so as to reduce the impact of climate change, water scarcity and drought.

81. The Government of Qatar was convinced of the need to ensure the right to nutrition for all citizens and would make every effort to strengthen access to that fundamental right and free people from hunger. Women, children, the elderly and local communities must all be guaranteed nutrition. Efforts to support sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity must also take into account national development policies.

82. **Mr. Emvula** (Namibia) said that the majority of people in Namibia lived in rural areas, where livelihoods were primarily dependent on agriculture. Namibia was vulnerable to food shortages. There were about 221,000 rural households in the country, of which 84,000 were regarded as poor. Subsistence agriculture sustained some 48 per cent of rural households, and the country and the region as a whole faced such challenges as the severe effects of climate change, water scarcity and land degradation.

83. The Government supported agriculture as one of its strategic sectors. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry was mandated to promote, develop, manage and utilize agricultural, water and forestry resources, which involved diversification of agricultural practices and products, job creation, improved competitiveness and development of local, regional and international markets. Related initiatives aimed at improving the regulatory framework to promote food safety standards and ensure food security.

84. To boost agricultural production and enhance national food security, Namibia had promoted agricultural mechanization, the establishment of agrotechnology centres and a competitive financing scheme covering land acquisition and the financing of agricultural inputs, crop insurance and the acquisition of appropriate technologies by farmers. Conservation agriculture training for smallholder farmers had yielded exceptional results.

85. Trade and macroeconomic policies that were biased against agricultural exports from developing

countries were cause for concern. International trade should be promoted. Regional integration was a vehicle for globalization based on a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that promoted sustainable development. The Doha Round should be concluded, with a development-oriented outcome.

86. Namibia called on the international community to promote and facilitate access to the development, acquisition, transfer and diffusion of technologies and corresponding know-how to farmers in developing countries, as well as increased technical and financial assistance to strengthen national innovation capacity through research and development.

87. Global warming and climate change continued to pose a threat to food production systems and to food security. In many developing countries, the agriculture sectors were highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. In that regard, Namibia noted with concern the adverse effects of drought, desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss in the developing world, particularly in Africa, caused by climate change. Sustainable land management was needed, including reclamation of dry and degraded land for agricultural production.

88. A large percentage of women were involved in subsistence farming in Namibia, thus contributing enormously to food security and economic development. The gender aspect of agriculture and food security should be mainstreamed in the national and international development agendas.

89. **Mr. Huraimel** (United Arab Emirates) emphasized the need to end hunger once and for all and ensure sufficient food and nutrition for 9 billion people by 2050. That would require the adoption of a comprehensive global strategy to expand safety nets and social protection programmes and to control volatile prices on food staples. The United Arab Emirates worked to promote food security, especially by promoting family farming and its role in providing food. Meeting the world's growing needs required coordinating the efforts of all small farmers. Smallholders must focus on increasing productivity in order to be competitive with the commercial farming industry.

90. Billions of people spent half to three quarters of their income on food. Water scarcity and limited acreage suitable for agriculture accentuated the food security challenge. Given the limited land areas that could be cultivated in the United Arab Emirates, the country had shifted towards aquatic and organic farming and was conducting research to improve soil and agricultural yields. It had partnerships with countries with greater agricultural resources, to carry out projects using those countries' land. It was seeking to establish a national food processing industry that would meet national needs and eventually export to Arab and regional markets, representing a step towards regional food security.

91. **Mr.** Mamadou **Coulibaly** (Burkina Faso) said that the right to food, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was still far from being fulfilled, owing to the consequences of climate change and the current economic situation, in which financial speculation had led to price increases.

92. The Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, provided a strategic basis for coordinated action by all stakeholders and also established a two-track approach for addressing hunger.

93. Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in the Sahel, was, like other developing countries, vulnerable to climate hazards. Physical, technological and socioeconomic factors placed limits on its agricultural development. Family subsistence farming was the dominant agricultural model in Burkina Faso. The number of people working in the agricultural sector had risen from about 8.3 million in 1993 to over 13 million in 2008, with an annual growth rate of 3.09 per cent. Fisheries also contributed to food and nutrition security in the country and had potential for growth.

94. Smallholder farmers were key to economic and social development in Burkina Faso. In the context of the MDGs, measures were in place to increase smallholder farmers' resilience to climate change through use of traditional knowledge. The approach provided opportunities for the full participation of woman farmers, thereby optimizing human resources while preserving the social fabric of local communities and revitalizing local economies.

95. A lack of financial resources in Burkina Faso placed constraints on investments in the agricultural sector. Far-reaching structural reforms were under way and had already resulted in the adoption of a policy that promoted foreign direct investment; price

deregulation for goods other than fuel; the review of the entire legal and regulatory framework for investment; and the strengthening of investors' rights and guarantees.

96. To mobilize additional financial resources for the national economy, the Government had formulated a policy to develop growth and competitiveness zones in towns or urban centres with a specific high-potential focus, such as agriculture, industry and technology, services or mining.

97. While the national agriculture policy had been bearing fruit, the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel could have negative impacts on food security. Burkina Faso had received nearly 60,000 refugees from the subregion. It was crucial for the international community to examine the situation, which threatened the survival of 18 million people.

98. To ensure the development of self-sufficient agriculture and food security, the actors in the agriculture, forestry and herding sectors must be better organized, more entrepreneurial and more productive. Greater coherence in food security and nutrition policy among States was needed.

99. **Ms. Derderian** (United States of America) said that as the world's largest donor of international food assistance, the United States strongly supported stand-alone goals on food security and nutrition, as well as on oceans. The post-2015 development agenda represented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to eradicate extreme poverty. The United States was committed to formalizing an agenda that focused on broad and lasting priorities and impact.

100. The United States provided $2 billion in emergency agriculture aid each year. The Food for Peace Initiative had sent 1.1 million metric tons of food aid valued at $1.4 billion to 46 countries in 2013. The United States had also disbursed $2.2 billion under the Group of Eight (G-8) L'Aquila Food Security Initiative.

101. The United States was committed to working with all stakeholders to draw in all forms of expertise and resources available. It supported innovative partnerships, such as the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which had attracted over $7 billion in country-specific private investments for African agriculture to support small farming and reduce poverty and hunger. Regardless of the number of partners and stakeholders, country ownership was critical to successful agricultural development. Concrete, sustainable results could be achieved when developing countries took ownership, programmes were designed for their strengths and needs, and new resources were shared in a transparent and collaborative manner.

102. At the forty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, the United States had joined other countries to endorse the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture for Sustainable Development, which contributed to enhancing food security and nutrition. Together with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, in the context of national food security, those non-binding principles created powerful new tools to guide and facilitate the necessary investment to eliminate hunger and extreme poverty through smart, agriculture-led economic growth.

103. Research showed that good nutrition during the 1,000-day period from a woman's pregnancy through her child's second birthday was critical for saving lives and improving lifelong cognitive and physical development. Feed the Future was a United States programme that in 2013 had aided more than 12.5 million children through nutrition interventions and helped nearly 7 million farmers and food producers through new technologies and management practices.

104. It was anticipated that by 2050, the demand for crops would increase by 14 per cent per decade, while yields would drop owing to climate change, thereby affecting food prices. The United States and other partners had recently launched the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture to accelerate implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices.

105. Secretary of State Kerry had hosted the "Our Ocean" Conference in 2014, which had generated commitments to protect the oceans from overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, marine pollution and ocean acidification valued at more than $1.8 billion. Chile had agreed to host a second such Conference in 2015.

106. **Mr. Tang** Kuancheng (China) said that there had been progress in global agricultural development and that the global food supply relative to demand had eased. However, there had been no major breakthroughs in global food productivity. Global

demand for food security was still strong, and one in ten people were still hungry.

107. The next step was to focus on ensuring an adequate food supply. It was crucial for countries, especially developing countries, to enhance their agricultural infrastructure, increase inputs, overcome bottlenecks in food production and increase resilience. Efforts were needed to increase agricultural production and self-sufficiency. Also, an enabling environment for private investment in agriculture was needed, as was a favourable trade environment for agriculture. The international community must work against trade protectionism in all forms.

108. A positive outcome to the Doha Round and a just, equitable, sustainable and stable international trade order for agricultural products were needed. International financial regulations should be reformed, and speculation in agricultural goods suppressed. Food security, agriculture and nutrition should be incorporated into the post-2015 development framework.

109. As the country with the largest population and food consumption in the world, China made feeding its 1.3 billion people a priority. It had always adhered to the principle of self-sufficiency in food production and continued to solidify the fundamental role of agriculture. With 9 per cent of the world's arable land and 6.5 per cent of its fresh water resources, China fed 20 per cent of the population of the world. It had become a prosperous country, eradicating poverty and eliminating hunger ahead of schedule.

110. Since 2004, food production had increased 10 years in a row. The Government of China was confident that it could sustain food security in the long term based on domestic production. China actively participated in international activities to eradicate poverty and eliminate hunger, including in African countries. It had built dozens of agricultural demonstration centres and sent hundreds of agricultural specialists and technicians to provide assistance in other countries, including training thousands of agricultural personnel abroad.

111. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia) said that Malaysia aimed to achieve a high-income and high-productivity economy by 2020. Sustainable agriculture development and food security were building blocks of national inclusivity, a central tenet of his Government's policy. Plans to transform the national economy included initiatives to promote agricultural productivity and food security. Those initiatives were in line with the main pillars of the new economic model — food security, wealth creation and inclusiveness. A national agrifood policy for the period 2011-2020 aimed to ensure an adequate food supply for the nation and transform the national agricultural food industry into a competitive and sustainable sector by increasing the income of local farmers and food producers.

112. Measures to mitigate the effects of climate change on agricultural production included using drought-resistant crop varieties, changing the timing of fertilizer application to maintain yield and quality and improving pest, disease and weed management through use of resistant varieties and water and irrigation management.

113. Food security should be a priority in international aid. Malaysia hoped that developed countries would strengthen their commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

114. **Ms. Nguyen** Phuong Nga (Viet Nam) said that 70 per cent of the population of Viet Nam lived in rural areas. While the agricultural sector was shrinking, it still accounted for nearly 20 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Once reliant on food imports, Viet Nam had become one of the world's largest food exporters, providing about one fifth of the world's rice exports.

115. Strong political commitment to agricultural and rural development and overall poverty eradication was indispensable to ensure robust policies that covered the various aspects of agriculture development, food availability, accessibility and resilience. Land allocation to farm households and recognition of land use rights had created incentives for farmers to increase productivity. Investment was also crucial. Rural banks had provided smallholder farmers with more credit to invest in agricultural production and public investment in infrastructure, particularly irrigation, had helped spur growth.

116. Social security schemes and poverty reduction programmes targeting the poorest and most vulnerable households were needed. The root causes of hunger and food insecurity were poverty and deprivation, which in turn limited access to food. Effective distribution was also important.

117. Early warning systems, information-sharing mechanisms, adequate investment in disaster

preparedness and climate change mitigation and adaptation plans were needed to ensure the resilience of the agriculture sector and food security for the population at all times, including during crises.

118. Viet Nam had a plan to restructure the agricultural sector that emphasized the need for the Government to shift from being the primary provider to becoming the facilitator of investments and services undertaken by others, including research, development, technology transfer, regulation of land markets, creation of an enabling environment for agribusiness and provision of information and services that enabled others to manage production and commercial risks.

119. **Mr. Coulibaly** (Mali) said that the economy of Mali was based on agriculture, in which 80 per cent of the able-bodied population was engaged, and which contributed 40 to 45 per cent of GDP. The small family farm, which generally lagged with regard to innovation, was the primary agricultural model. Challenges included land allocation management; shortages of qualified labour in rural areas; poor water management; limited access to credit by agricultural producers; and agricultural producers with inadequate skills.

120. Mali was working to introduce technological progress into agricultural systems, promote mechanization and make product transformation a more significant part of the agricultural sector. The Government aimed to make Mali one of West Africa's largest meat, dairy and freshwater fish producers as well as the region's breadbasket. It also aimed to modernize agriculture in a way that was compatible with environmental preservation, with a commitment on the part of the international community to meet the challenges of climate change.

121. A new law on agriculture and agriculture development policy was designed to achieve food sovereignty and make agriculture the engine of the national economy. The President presided over an agricultural council, made up of members from the public and private sectors and civil society, to track implementation of the policy.

122. The Government of Mali had decided to allocate 15 per cent of the State budget to agriculture in 2015. Establishment of tractor assembly plants, policies to stabilize land tenure and input subsidies were among the measures that had been taken to encourage growth of the agriculture sector.

123. Despite all the measures, food crises persisted, and the number of people who lacked adequate food supply had risen to approximately 1.5 million. Food insecurity was closely tied to poverty, which affected 43.6 per cent of the population and was more prevalent in rural areas. A national food security policy had been adopted in 2003. The Government had also adopted a ten-year food security and nutrition programme to overcome hunger and provide food security nationally by 2017, in a manner that was gender-sensitive and respected social justice.

124. The nutrition situation in the country remained worrisome, with a number of children suffering from acute malnutrition. Nutrition security involved much more than access to sufficient food. It also required access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, quality health care, improved household food security and good nutritional practices.

125. In 2013, the Government of Mali had adopted a national nutrition policy, which established five-year action plans. The first of those plans had been adopted in 2014. Mali was thus endeavouring to ensure the right to adequate nutrition to its entire population.

The meeting rose at 12.55.

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Chair: Ms. Francis (Vice-Chair) ..... (Bahamas)
later: Mr. Iziraren (Vice-Chair) ..... (Morocco)

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In the absence of Mr. Cardi (Italy), Ms. Francis (Bahamas), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 25: Agriculture development, food security and nutrition (*continued*) (A/69/91-E/2014/84, A/69/279 and A/69/392; A/C.2/69/2)

1. **Mr. Pokharel** (Nepal) said that agriculture, food security and nutrition were vital for supporting livelihoods and socioeconomic development, and had impacts on poverty, inequality, hunger, health and the environment. His delegation emphasized the importance of the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security and welcomed the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals under Goal 2.

2. There were still 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty and 842 million people suffering from hunger. Around 40 per cent of children suffered from malnutrition and stunting globally. Food losses and waste, estimated at 1.3 billion tons annually, presented another serious concern. Given the mutually reinforcing link between agriculture development, poverty eradication and protection of the environment, significant efforts must be made to ensure sustainable food production and to resolve related problems at all levels.

3. As agriculture was the lifeline of Nepal, the Government strove to increase the sector's productivity, to enhance entrepreneurship, to develop and diversify environment-friendly agricultural technology, and to protect and promote agricultural biodiversity. Nevertheless, Nepal faced a number of challenges, such as high prices and low food supplies, labour flight, and the adverse effects of climate change. Consequently, although more than two thirds of the country's population worked in agriculture, the sector's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) and foreign trade was only approximately one third and less than 15 per cent, respectively. Nepal also faced rapid loss of land fertility, decline in crop yields and food insecurity, which greatly impacted its population, especially women, children, the elderly and those living in rural, remote and geographically disadvantaged areas.

4. The right to food could be guaranteed only when food security was properly addressed in terms of food availability, supply, access and consumption. The Zero Hunger Challenge was an important initiative in that regard, covering hunger, malnutrition and food security in a holistic manner.

5. The current situation of food insecurity was largely the result of low investment, the neglect of structural transformation of the agricultural sector, and failure to use appropriate technology. As enhancing productivity was essential to achieving sustainable agriculture, Nepal called on developed countries and international financial institutions to increase assistance to cover social safety nets, thus complementing efforts made by national Governments in sharing best practices for enhancing agricultural production, including the transfer and use of appropriate, affordable, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural technologies. Such action would require the fulfilment of official development assistance commitments, greater investment in sustainable agricultural and rural development and the application of local knowledge and supportive international trade rules. Agriculture and food security should be considered a priority in the post-2015 development agenda and in relation to the sustainable development goals, taking into account the specific needs and challenges faced by the least developed countries, such as Nepal.

6. **Mr. Moussa** (Niger) said that agriculture was Niger's largest economic sector, representing more than 40 per cent of GDP. However, climate hazards, traditional production methods and high demographic pressure had limited its potential. Cyclical droughts provoked recurring food crises that affected rural populations, in particular women and children, leaving the country dependent on foreign assistance for food security, and ultimately negatively impacting the balance of payments.

7. Niger had therefore launched a National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Disasters and Food Crises, which operated in close cooperation with technical and financial partners to ensure food security. Drawing on research designed to achieve domestic food sufficiency, Niger's President had launched the "Les Nigeriens Nourrissent les Nigeriens" (Nigeriens Feeding Nigeriens) initiative to strengthen national food production, supply and resilience. The initiative focused on five key areas of change: increasing and diversifying production and fish stocks; ensuring a regular supply to rural and urban markets; boosting the resilience of vulnerable groups to climate change, food crises and natural disasters; improving nutrition; and

reforming food security and agricultural development. A number of institutional, technical and financial mechanisms had in turn been developed to achieve those objectives.

8. Niger's hope of realizing food security was based on the country's many assets, including considerable water resources, a vibrant young population, large swaths of arable land and firm political will. Niger was one of the first ten African countries to have implemented some of the objectives contained in the 2003 Maputo Declaration, in particular by allocating 10 per cent of its national budget to agriculture and by attaining an annual rate of agricultural growth of 6 per cent.

9. The post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals would need to promote smart agriculture for future generations in order to feed the 9 billion individuals that would be alive in 2050. In that context, his delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/309 on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals as the basis for upcoming intergovernmental processes to elaborate a post-2015 development agenda. Nevertheless, and without wishing to re-open the negotiations that had taken place within the Open Working Group, his delegation wished to emphasize that the interdependence of water, land, energy, and technology — all indispensable for agricultural development — must be considered when elaborating agricultural objectives. Especially relevant in that regard were the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; the International Decade for Action "Water for Life"; the arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies; and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

10. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that despite the efforts of the United Nations to maintain the momentum of efforts to address the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition, and thus accomplish the goals agreed at the Millennium Summit and in the Zero Hunger Challenge, results were lacking. Less than a year from the date set to achieve the goal of halving the proportion of people who suffered from hunger, one out of eight people in the world was still deprived of the basic human right to food. Moreover, the much-needed increase in agricultural production had been attained at the expense of factors that were crucial for its own sustainability. Countries had been deprived of valuable human capital; sustainable development could thrive only if agricultural development, food security and nutrition were an integral part of national development strategies.

11. Some 88 per cent of Mozambicans lived in rural areas and relied on agriculture as a source of income. Cognizant of the importance of sustainable agriculture for development and poverty eradication, Mozambique had developed a poverty eradication strategy that was people-centred and defined agriculture as the basis for national development, in line with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The strategy also took into account that only 5 per cent of farmers used improved seeds and fertilizers and 12 per cent of plots were farmed with animal-drawn ploughs.

12. Mozambique had adopted a number of policies and measures to support food production and cash crops, to supply agricultural inputs to farmers, to provide crop protection, to create institutional capacity and promote research that would boost resilience to natural hazards, and to increase productivity. In particular, the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Agrarian Sector for the period 2010-2020 aimed to increase food production, broaden market access through improved rural infrastructure, encourage the sustainable use of natural resources, and develop institutional capacities. As the approach was based on the value chain, its implementation took into account all activities from agricultural inputs to marketing that added value to agricultural products.

13. The Strategic Plan also covered the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and the adoption of new technologies for water management. Overall the Strategic Plan aimed to build synergies to transform the agricultural sector from predominantly subsistence agriculture to more competitive agriculture practices, thus improving investor confidence and mobilizing resources for further investment.

14. As a result of the actions undertaken, Mozambique had experienced significant growth in agricultural production and productivity and a considerable decrease in poverty in rural areas, thus contributing to the attainment of national and international agreed social goals. Experience confirmed that community empowerment — one of the pillars of agricultural production — was essential, also because

it had the capacity to improve the welfare of vulnerable groups, and to protect the environment.

15. As Mozambique strove to achieve sustainable agriculture development and to halve the percentage of its population suffering from hunger, international cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral and from developed and developing partners, was of paramount importance to strengthen synergies and complement national interventions, particularly to boost resilience to climate change.

16. **Mr. Agamah** (Nigeria) said that agriculture and food security had been adversely affected by the global economic crisis and by the unpredictable effects of climate change. There was an urgent need to deliver the poorest and most vulnerable from extreme poverty and hunger. Although the food crisis was global, African countries were among the worst affected, owing in part to low productivity, meagre rural incomes and high rates of malnutrition.

17. The current crisis should be regarded as an opportunity to make agriculture, which was key to sustainable food security, a priority, especially in Africa. Nigeria called for regional and international support to strengthen the capacity of developing countries with a view to enhancing the production, productivity and nutritional quality of food crops, as well as the promotion of sustainable practices in agricultural activities. Noting the considerable interest generated by the Zero Hunger Challenge, he said that further concerted efforts were needed at all levels to ensure that present and future generations would have access to affordable food.

18. Food security and nutrition were both global challenges and national priorities. Nigeria had developed an Agricultural Transformation Agenda, which aimed to create over 3.5 million jobs by focusing on key agricultural value chains and to provide additional income for Nigerian farmers, particularly smallholder farmers. Furthermore, his Government had outlined a number of medium- and long-term strategies to ensure food security, including soft loans to university graduates interested in farming, support for rural agricultural development programmes and irrigation schemes, a National Food Security Programme to boost domestic production of food crops and the development of agro-allied industries, initiatives to encourage the sustainable use of water and the distribution of improved crop varieties.

19. Given the pivotal role of the agricultural sector in the Nigerian economy, the Government had taken steps to address existing challenges by offering low-interest rate loans, strengthening extension services, providing adequate rural and value chain infrastructure, and maintaining a database of farmers for capacity-building purposes. Agricultural development and food security remained fundamental to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nigeria therefore called for additional investment in agricultural research and development, and in agricultural production, as well as a holistic, inclusive approach to sustainable development that promoted agriculture and food systems.

20. **Mr. Bamba** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that despite the progress accomplished over the past 20 years, 842 million persons still suffered from chronic hunger, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia; agriculture development, food security and nutrition therefore remained major challenges to be urgently addressed in the context of national and international development agendas.

21. In Côte d'Ivoire, agriculture and food security were of utmost concern, as demonstrated by his Government's National Agricultural Investment Plan, established under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The Investment Plan had five major objectives: to achieve 9 per cent agricultural growth by 2015; to reduce food insecurity to 12 per cent and improve nutrition, especially for children aged 6 to 59 months; to significantly reduce poverty, especially in rural areas; to stimulate the agro-industrial sector with a view to transforming at least 50 per cent of local agricultural products; and creating jobs, especially for young people. In preparing for the Plan's implementation, Côte d'Ivoire sought to foster an environment that would attract private investment in production, transformation and marketing; to establish rural land security for greater land access, including for women and smallholders; and to create a framework for improving nutrition. As a result, Côte d'Ivoire had become eligible in 2012 for the Group of 8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, and had consequently established several public-private partnerships for cash crops and foodstuffs such as rice, for which the national deficit had been estimated at 50 per cent in 2012. In 2013, the Government had

distributed 3,840 kits to vulnerable households for foodstuff cultivation.

22. Food security was also necessarily linked to the transport, distribution and price of food. In order to provide the people of Côte d'Ivoire with sufficient, stable and affordable food supplies, his Government had begun rehabilitating water infrastructure and rural roads, and was working to limit the cost of living.

23. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire had elaborated a multisectoral plan to improve the nutrition of children and vulnerable groups. The plan sought to encourage access to healthy, balanced meals; improve knowledge regarding good nutritional practices; and build the capacity of nutritional facilities. Côte d'Ivoire had also participated in the "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement in 2013.

24. If developing countries were to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security, national initiatives would have to be supported by international cooperation that included technology transfer and capacity-building. Consequently, Côte d'Ivoire welcomed Goal 2 of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and called for future negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda to incorporate the sustainable development goals and their means of implementation as defined in Goal 17. His delegation hoped for a speedy conclusion to the Doha Round and to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, owing to the close links between climate and agriculture.

25. *Mr. Iziraren (Morocco), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

26. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that despite there being sufficient capacity and resources in the world to ensure adequate food and good nutrition for everyone, 842 million people still suffered from chronic hunger. The disconnect between possibilities and realities was the result of uneven globalization, which had increased inequality rather than distributing benefits; the many conflicts and crises affecting the world; and the effects of climate change, which systematically undermined global food security. Since agriculture development, food security and nutrition were all dependent on other factors, it was necessary to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensure the food security of future generations.

27. It was nevertheless encouraging that the close interrelationships between agriculture development, food security and nutrition were being examined holistically. His delegation supported the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to place such interrelated issues on the post-2015 development agenda as a separate goal with its own targets. Belarus placed great importance on strengthening national food security and was actively developing its agricultural production in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other agencies.

28. **Ms. Anate Balli** (Togo) said that Togo's agriculture sector represented about 40 per cent of GDP and employed almost 70 per cent of its total active population; it was poised to become Togo's economic driver as a result of a national programme for agricultural investment and food security. Since its launch in 2012, the programme had helped numerous farmers, livestock breeders and fishers to improve productivity. The programme likewise aimed to grant land access to the most vulnerable groups of society, especially women and young people, through a tripartite contract between landowners, the State and farmers.

29. Togo's national priorities were aligned with the strategic framework of FAO, especially with regard to the reduction of rural poverty, hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. Over the previous decade, with the exception of milled rice, which suffered from structural deficits, the food balance sheets for plant-based foodstuffs had been relatively stable, while the rate of coverage of food needs had varied between 90 per cent and 105 per cent, with significant surpluses of cereals. Thanks to such efforts, in 2013 Togo had been recognized by FAO for excellent progress in the fight against hunger.

30. Despite multisectoral efforts to strengthen food security, many populations still faced problems of food safety and availability, possibly because actions were taken independently by a multitude of public and private actors. Consequently, in 2013, Togo had launched, with the support of FAO, a project to promote the right to food and the good governance of food security and nutrition. Through that project, the Government sought to ensure the effective coordination of actions undertaken with regard to food security while continuing to rely on the support of the international community.

31. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the agricultural and rural economy of least developed countries was subsistence-based, accounting for just 20 per cent of their aggregate GDP in 2011 and 2012, even though over 70 per cent of their populations depended on it for their livelihood. Owing to a lack of adequate investment in physical infrastructure, scientific and technological development, the agricultural sector in least developed countries faced huge challenges, such as the adverse impacts of climate change, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and declining water availability and quality.

32. While developed countries faced the challenge of preserving foodstuffs, and wasted roughly one third of all food globally produced, least developed countries food loss occurred primarily on farms, as a result of pests or lack of effective storage, or in transportation and processing. To overcome such challenges, agricultural productivity in least developed countries must increase at least threefold, with a focus on sustainably increasing smallholder yields and access to irrigation. Furthermore, development partners must provide enhanced financial and technical support for the development of the agricultural sector, as set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. World Trade Organization (WTO) members should eliminate all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect as provided in the Doha Work Programme, the framework adopted by the General Council of the WTO on 1 August 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. It was also crucial for development partners to support least developed countries' efforts to establish and strengthen safety nets, such as access to agricultural finance, insurance and other risk mitigation tools. Lastly, the international community should provide least developed countries with high-yield and climate-resilient crop varieties through the transfer of appropriate technology and technical know-how.

33. A close link existed between income poverty and access to food. Although recent data showed that the world had achieved the poverty target in Goal 1 of the MDGs, progress in reducing food insecurity and malnutrition had been less encouraging. His delegation supported the Zero Hunger Challenge and called for the eradication of hunger by 2020, including by substantially increasing investment in rural infrastructure and ensuring access to safe food and emergency food assistance in all least developed countries. Moreover, his delegation called on the international community to establish a food stockholding programme or food bank for least developed countries to deal with humanitarian food emergencies or as a means to limit price volatility, which should be included in the sustainable development goals. It also called on the global community to improve the international institutional and policy environment and to reduce price volatility, including through improved information systems for stocks and production and greater transparency in commodity markets. While some of those recommendations had already been incorporated in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, all of them must be integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

34. **Mr. M. Osman Sid Ahmed Mohammed Ali** (Sudan) said that there were still 852 million hungry persons in the world, most of whom lived in developing countries. The challenge of eliminating poverty, which was exacerbated by fluctuating food prices and malnutrition, especially in developing countries, was closely linked to agricultural development and food security. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) had reaffirmed the need for sustainable agricultural development to eliminate hunger and use natural resources judiciously.

35. The world faced tremendous challenges with regard to food security and agricultural production, including climate change, land degradation, droughts and floods. Food waste also continued to be a problem. It was necessary to focus on smallholder agriculture, access to markets and the elimination of protectionist policies.

36. Sudan's resources were tremendous, including 100 million acres of arable land and more than 100 million head of livestock. Agriculture accounted for 34 per cent of GDP in 2012, with 70 per cent of the population dependent on the sector.

37. Despite facing numerous challenges, Sudan, by investing in small business and other initiatives, had been able to reduce extreme poverty and hunger to 8 per cent. Sudan further hoped to resolve internal conflicts in order to focus on the sustainable

development goals; however, economic sanctions impeded the country's development.

38. **Mr. Hajilari** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Islamic Republic of Iran considered agricultural development, food security and nutrition as essential elements for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. Technological development, know-how and best practices were not exclusive to any specific country or group of countries; his delegation therefore encouraged cooperation at the national, regional and international levels for global well-being and prosperity. The challenges that should be addressed collectively in a comprehensive and coordinated manner included: the as-yet unmet MDGs on poverty eradication, hunger reduction and malnutrition; the lack of sufficient investment in agricultural sectors to enhance productive capacity in developing countries; difficulties of access to agricultural product markets for developing countries; excessive food price volatility; agricultural subsidies and other trade-distorting practices; and the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries. The international community must work together to overcome such challenges.

39. The United Nations also had a unique role to play in coordinating action among various stakeholders in support of national development efforts, with a view to pursuing a holistic approach to the development of sustainable agriculture. His delegation supported the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, especially the incorporation of a stand-alone goal on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

40. **Ms. Ochir** (Mongolia) said that despite some progress in reducing chronic hunger, one in eight individuals remained chronically undernourished. The international community therefore needed to redouble its efforts to meet the MDG goal on hunger and poverty eradication as part of the post-2015 development agenda. Mongolia welcomed the inclusion of a stand-alone goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture as contained in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

41. Mongolia's agricultural sector contributed about 16 per cent of total GDP, employed 32 per cent of the labour force and accounted for approximately 14 per cent of export revenues. As a result of several campaigns to restore crop production, Mongolia had become self-sufficient in wheat and potatoes, and 55 per cent self-sufficient in overall vegetable production; 80 per cent of agricultural machinery had also been restored. Challenges persisted, however, including insufficient financial resources and technical expertise, a short growing season, extreme weather fluctuations and low precipitation. Closer cooperation with private sector and non-governmental organizations had led to the promotion of crop farming and horticulture development, and ultimately to poverty reduction in rural areas by creating new jobs and business opportunities.

42. As livestock production accounted for 77 per cent of gross agricultural output, her Government was aiming to improve herders' livelihoods. However, the agricultural sector, and particularly livestock rearing, was vulnerable to changing climatic conditions and frequent natural disasters.

43. Mongolia's National Food Security Programme envisaged working more closely with the private sector to improve food self-reliance and to enhance food safety, taking into account the traditional nomadic pastoral system in rural areas, the extreme vulnerability of herders and farmers to climate change, the isolation of many rural households and communities and the highly concentrated urban population. The national target to reduce the percentage of people suffering from malnutrition sixfold was likely to be achieved. However, the double burden of undernutrition and obesity was emerging. In that regard, her delegation looked forward to the adoption, at the second International Conference on Nutrition, of a new global framework designed to adequately address major nutrition challenges over the coming decades.

44. In March 2014, Mongolia had hosted the 32nd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which had resulted in strong support for implementation of four regional FAO initiatives: the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Rice Initiative, Blue Growth, and Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific Island States. Given the progress made in the region, Goal 1 of the MDGs was achievable if countries demonstrated

renewed political commitment, took decisive national action and engaged in effective global partnership.

45. **Mr. Bai** (Fiji) said that food security and nutrition were a prerequisite for sustainable development; however, despite collective efforts, more than 99 million children under the age of five were still underweight and undernourished. It was important to deal with the root causes of the problem, such as poverty and inequity, as well as exacerbating factors such as volatile food prices.

46. As a small island developing State, Fiji faced special challenges in developing national programmes and setting aside the funds necessary for sustainable development solutions. His delegation called for the mobilization of financial resources, as well as enhanced collaboration by relevant international bodies and organizations to assist small island developing States and other developing countries. Enhanced collaboration should include the development of advanced agricultural technology, capacity-building for sustainable agricultural practices, and most importantly, technology transfer to establish the best farming methods. For Pacific islands, challenges relating to food security and nutrition had been compounded by climate change. Changes in sea levels and increasingly frequent and violent natural disasters were disproportionately devastating to the economies of islands, where commercial vegetation had been inundated with salt water, resulting in loss of fertile soil.

47. As a small island developing State with over 300 islands and a population dispersed around remote outlying islands, Fiji was dependent on oceans for nutrition and protein. The livelihoods and food security of much of the population had been heavily compromised as a result of climate change. Recalling the additional challenges facing small island developing States in relation to agricultural trade, he called for fairer trading systems, which should provide for leniency in trade embargoes and trade barriers and the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway. While considerable efforts had been made to address the problems of food security and nutrition, much remained to be done: enhanced collaboration between relevant international bodies and organizations, including FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), would be necessary.

48. **Mr. Jiménez** (Nicaragua) said that the right to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, as reaffirmed at Rio+20, required a holistic approach to food systems. The world must join forces to avoid recurring global food crises. In addition, food security could be achieved only by ensuring equitable economic growth, job creation, income generation and technological advances, particularly in agriculture. The international community must endeavour to integrate developing countries into international markets in a fair, transparent and sustainable manner.

49. Nicaragua's national strategy of food security and food sovereignty aimed to protect its population from hunger by guaranteeing families, especially those poorest, access to sufficient, nutritious and safe food through a range of actions that included supporting smallholders with credit, supplies and technical assistance, and sending food packets to families affected by climate change. According to FAO, Nicaragua had achieved the Goal 1 of the MDGs — to reduce by half the number of people suffering from hunger. Additionally, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had recognized Nicaragua's efforts in improving infant nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean. The success achieved thus far had been the result of Nicaragua's social policies aimed at fighting poverty and its efforts to invest in microcredit operations and foster the social and economic empowerment of the most vulnerable.

50. Hunger eradication and access to sufficient, safe, available and nutritious food should be included in the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, steps should be taken to eliminate malnutrition, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, obesity and overweight. By 2030, the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity should be achieved, especially through the greater use of traditional knowledge and practices. Smallholder farmers should gain greater access to national and international markets, as well as to technical knowledge and know-how, including through new information and communications technologies. Post-harvest and supply chain food losses should be reduced, while sustainable consumption patterns should be promoted, especially in developed countries. Finally, trade-distorting agricultural subsidies should be eliminated, especially export subsidies in developed countries. Such subsidies greatly harmed developing economies, especially in

least developed countries, and negatively affected employment, rural development and food security.

51. In negotiating the post-2015 development agenda, references to the means of implementation were fundamental for the universal achievement of the sustainable development goals, in accordance with the different historical responsibilities and capabilities of developed and developing countries.

52. **Mr. Kihurani** (Kenya) said that the agricultural sector was the mainstay of the Kenyan economy, contributing some 25 per cent of GDP and approximately 45 per cent of Government revenue. The sector also generated more than 60 per cent of employment opportunities, with over 80 per cent of the rural population deriving its livelihood from agriculture; it was also crucial to the economic growth because it provided markets for farm machinery, equipment and fertilizers and had strong linkages with service industries. Kenya therefore welcomed the inclusion of a goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture as contained in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

53. Regrettably, developing countries remained vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, which compromised food security, a problem which was further compounded by steep production costs, high global food prices and the low purchasing power of the poor.

54. Tackling food insecurity, an as-yet unachieved Millennium Development Goal, remained a priority for Kenya. Even as the world was approaching the MDG deadline, it was estimated that Africa spent close to $35 billion dollars annually to import food — a deplorable situation considering that some 50 per cent of the world's unused arable land was in sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya was finalizing an Agricultural Sector Development Strategy to achieve 10 per cent annual economic growth, as envisaged under the economic pillar of the country's development strategy — Vision 2030 — and thus transform the sector into a profitable economic activity, capable of attracting adequate and sustained private investment and providing gainful employment.

55. Other Government actions included subsidizing farm inputs, offering research and extension services to farmers, improving rural infrastructure, developing rural agricultural markets and agribusiness skills, reviving and expanding irrigation programmes, addressing market distortions and raising the levels of strategic grain reserves. Kenya's policies revolved around increased productivity and income growth, especially for smallholders, the commercialization and intensification of production, participatory policy formulation and environmental sustainability.

56. To address nutrition, Kenya was finalizing a National Nutrition Action Plan and nutrition budgets had been mainstreamed in the Government's broader medium-term development plan, which would help more than half of the population access nutritionally fortified foods over the following five years through public-private partnerships.

57. His delegation welcomed the implementation of the International Year of Family Farming in 2014, which recognized the important contribution that family and smallholder farming played in providing food security, reducing malnutrition and eradicating poverty. Speculative tendencies continued to exacerbate food insecurity in Kenya. Consequently, his delegation supported the call for regulated markets to limit the increasing role of non-commercial actors in the food market. Regulated markets should address market distortions, while protecting the interests of both producers and consumers. Also important was the elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures taken by developed countries that were not in compliance with WTO rules.

58. **Archbishop Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that discussion of agriculture development, food security and nutrition was not and should not become a routine annual exercise, but an occasion to highlight the plight of the millions throughout the world who suffered from chronic hunger and food insecurity, and to remind the international community of the paradox that while so many died of hunger, an enormous quantity of food was also wasted every day.

59. While the 17 per cent decrease reported in people suffering from chronic hunger indicated a measure of effectiveness in the two decades of efforts to reduce hunger, almost 850 million people were still suffering from acute hunger. The eradication of hunger not merely a high priority for development, but a moral imperative. However, it was not owing to lack of food that many suffered from hunger, as current levels of food production worldwide were sufficient to feed everyone. The problem lay in the lack of conservation

technologies among smallholder producers, of government support to incentivize the commercialization of products, and of infrastructure for better food distribution and marketing, and, most regrettably, in the throwaway culture of affluent societies, which including the deliberate large-scale destruction of food products to keep prices and profit margins high.

60. The Holy See welcomed the incorporation of food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture in the sustainable development goals and their inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda. It also welcomed the focus of the Secretary-General's report (A/69/279) on agricultural development, food security and nutrition on the groups most vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition, such as women and children under the age of five.

61. The theme of 2014 World Food Day, "Family Farming: Feeding the world, caring for the world", indicated that the family, as a privileged agent for promoting a healthy environment for present and future generations, was key to ending hunger and achieving a sustainable future. The recognition of its role must be accompanied by policies and initiatives that responded to the needs of farming families and communities. In that connection, his delegation looked forward to the second International Conference on Nutrition, which would bring together Government leaders, top-level policymakers and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and civil society to take stock of progress in improving nutrition and seek new ways to boost national and global efforts to improve health.

62. **Mr. Yanga** (Director, Interagency Partnership Division, World Food Programme (WFP)), speaking also on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), said that the latest State of Food Insecurity Report, jointly published by the three Rome-based agencies, demonstrated continued progress in the reduction of global hunger. That progress notwithstanding, marked differences across regions and within countries persisted, with modest progress in sub-Saharan Africa and Western Asia, even as income poverty had decreased.

63. Policies aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and increasing food availability, especially those targeting smallholders, were critical for reducing hunger even when poverty was widespread. Greater participation in policy processes and measures to increase market access were key to realizing the full potential of smallholder agriculture. Food insecurity and malnutrition were sometimes exacerbated by price and income swings that significantly affected the poor and hungry, who often opted for cheaper and less nutritious foods as a result.

64. The international community needed to create a food system that could better withstand natural disasters and climate-change related shocks, and that implemented social protection floors and safety nets. If meaningful investments for more resilient food systems were further delayed, the costs of short-term food crises mitigation would grow. Addressing global food challenges would involve dealing with the long-term issues of the ways food was produced, traded and consumed in the face of population growth; increasing demand and climate change; strengthening policies and programmes that enhanced the resilience of populations to shocks; increasing investments and policies aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, especially for smallholders, as well as increased access to productive assets and markets; and ensuring access to nutritious food for the poorest people. The increasing prevalence of obesity and the closely related expansion of non-communicable diseases must also be factored in alongside other forms of malnutrition.

65. Economic empowerment and social inclusion of women required urgent attention, particularly in rural areas. Women represented 43 per cent of the agricultural workforce worldwide, and rural women played a key role in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being.

66. The incremental social and economic cost of stunting, which was a greater problem for African children currently than 20 years prior, was estimated between 1.9 and 16.5 per cent of GDP, thus revealing the importance of addressing undernutrition and stunting in the post-2015 agenda. The Zero Hunger Challenge provided a compelling vision on how to galvanize multisectoral engagement in order to accelerate efforts to achieve food and nutrition security. Likewise, the "Scaling Up Nutrition" movement was instrumental in driving policy and action and fostering greater collaboration between Governments, United Nations agencies and the public and private sectors.

67. The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, recently adopted by the Committee on World Food Security, were designed to enable larger and more sustainable investment in agriculture; transforming the Principles into reality alongside the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure would lead to improved food security and sustainability while respecting the rights of farm and food workers.

68. Achieving a healthy, hunger-free world in a sustainable manner demanded a long-term commitment to mainstreaming food security and nutrition in public policies and programmes. The Rome-based agencies therefore welcomed Goal 2 as proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.